

The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME XIII

JANUARY, 1957

No. 1



Dr. William A. R. Chapin



Dr. Edward P. Bagg

OUR CHIEFS "RETIRE"

After fifteen years of highly meritorious and dedicated service our two top-ranking officers of the Hippocrat Board have found it necessary to retire. "Retire" is hardly the word because they are still in there "pitching", and will continue to do so, it is hoped, for many years to come. All they have done was to relinquish some of the more arduous tasks that go with publishing a bulletin. We are referring to none other than our Editor-in-chief, Dr. Edward P. Bagg, and our Secretary and Business Manager, Dr. William A. R. Chapin.

The Hippocrat owes a great deal to the genius and leadership of these two gentlemen. They are the ones who founded it, and they are the ones who developed it into the high-class type of publication that it is today. It is highly gratifying, therefore, that both will continue to serve on our Board of Editors although in somewhat different capacities. The officers replacing them approach their new assignments with humility and trepidation. The task of emulating their preceptors is far from easy, especially now when the Hippocrat is to appear monthly instead of quarterly. Their chief solace lies in the knowledge that they can at all times rely on the wisdom, counsel and guidance of their illustrious predecessors.

Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
—Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 700 Copies.

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SIC TRANSIT REDACTOR

In leaving the hard-won summits of their climbing, even amateur Alpinists may take a last backward look at the sea of billowing lesser peaks extended there below, and search for the tortuous trails and circum-volutionary tracks that finally brought them to the heights. No need to detail the false starts and narrowly missed snow slides or the forbidding frosty atmospheres that were encountered,—"You were there!" That is, some thirty percent of you were according to our recent questionnaire.

But one thing we cannot share, the understandable pang of relinquishment after fifteen years of cooperative effort. It may be that you too enjoyed editorial standards that were less strict than those of statelier medical journals which permit tangential exploration in various literary veins related, closely or not, to the science of medicine. At least you must have noted the Hippocrat's ultimate expansion from an undernourished leaflet of a mere

eight pages to the well-filled sheaf of twenty leaves of shiny paper and a 'pitcher' too, all bound up in official medical green.

We are more than grateful for the persistent loyalty of our backers, the fellows of the Hampden District Medical Society, without which we must certainly have landed on our collective ear at the bottom of some abysmal crevasse. Our thanks also must go to the contributors—may their number increase!—, and especially to Larry Milsop of the Elm Tree Press whose ever ready assistance has shown him to be a more seraphic than devilish printer.

The enthusiasm of the younger generation of literary mountain climbers, Max Millman, John Leary and their associates, is heartening. In the trials already run, they have demonstrated enough ability to justify our confident belief that the Hampden District is entering an era of adequate presentation of important issues with the advantage of a workable bulletin of coming meetings and a ready medium for discussion and the airing of individual views.

As for us, once a climber always a climber—who doubtless will be found lingering in the foot-hills of Parnassus. Could we hope that someone will find old Chaucer's line that fits,

"And we shall speke of thee somewhat, I trowe"

When thou art goon, to do thine eres glowe"?

S. Q. Lapius.

COMPLIMENT

Curran-Jones

WEST SPRINGFIELD

Address Business Correspondence to:

Dr. John E. Leary
146 Chestnut Street — Springfield, Mass.
Telephone: RE 4-3381

FORUMS SCORE AGAIN

For the second season a series of Health Forums was conducted under the auspices of the Hampden District Medical Society, the Springfield Academy of Medicine, and the Springfield Newspapers. The attendance this year was greater than in 1955, indicating that the public is still deeply interested in authentic and authoritative medical information. The topics apparently were chosen wisely, if we are to judge by the enthusiastic response of the audience. They included: "You and Your Nerves", "Live Long and Like It", "Arthritis and Rheumatism", and "You and Your Child". (For a complete listing of panels and dates, see Summer issue of Hippocrat).

The committee profited greatly from the Forums of 1955 in that the selection of the panelists and topics, and the general organizational set-up were carried out with facility. It is important to stress

that the Forums were conducted for the public; they were not intended to be scientific sessions.

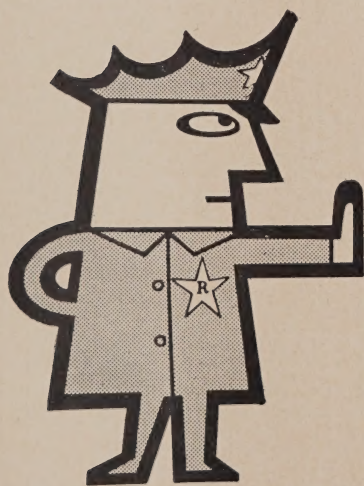
Twenty-seven doctors took part in the Forums. The public seemed pleased that the doctors had so willingly cooperated in an effort to keep the people informed of the latest research and progress in medical problems. An impression of optimism as regards a brighter future in the treatment of disease was evident.

The moderators and the panelists are to be commended for their part in making this second series of Forums such a success.

Once again a favorable venture in the way of good public relations was firmly established by these Forums.

Dr. Joseph M. Baker,
Public Relations
Councilor and Chairman
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REVICAPS ^{*}accepted reducing medication

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

An Open Letter To The Special Study Committee

You have insisted, and I agree, that the "Study" phase of your Project has been completed. The investigation was thorough and revealing; each situation was adequately surveyed, appraised, assessed, weighed, and "hashed-over". Further study can only lead in identical directions with wasteful repetition. You feel that action is now in order!

The groups concerned with whom you made your study are apparently also disposed toward action. Now, they seek remedies, defined and applied. Reference should again be made to "The Iron Must Not Cool" in the summer issue of the Hippocrat in which the impatience of the Labor group is expressed.

Unfortunately, when the District Society voted to continue the functions of the "Special Study Committee" for another year, if strictly interpreted, you would be charged with additional research only. I believe that the Society actually was prepared to go further, and I take this means, as appointing officer, of advising you to proceed without delay to your conferences; make such necessary decisions as your judgment indicates and commit yourself to whatever you collectively consider to be for the best interests of the Society. Whenever you feel the need of it appeal to the executive committee for its judgment.

Should the members question the boldness of this proposal, let them ponder by what other means the "Iron" can be prevented from cooling. Reassurance may additionally be derived from an inspection of the quality of the membership of the committees concerned. Progress will be reported in each issue of the Hippocrat, and the Society will be currently informed of progress and developments.

Let us, therefore, proceed with necks stretched out until such time as the District Society has the opportunity at a regular meeting to offer or to withhold its blessing. I, for one, am confident that

the maturity of your management of this project will eventually be approved and recognized when your groups are established as a standing, acting committee concerned with Economics in Medicine.

Dr. Harold Holleran, *President*
Hampden District Medical Society

SPECIAL STUDY COMMITTEE

Dr. Roger H. Cheney, *Chairman*

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Dr. Max Millman

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SEBIZON,[®] brand of antiseborrheic preparation,
contains sulfacetamide sodium 10%.

(1) Parish F. A.: M. Times 83:507, 1955. (2) Andrews, G. C.:
Diseases of the Skin, ed. 4, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders
Company, 1954, p. 170.



DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Sheraton-Kimball Hotel)

This being a meeting with our charming Auxiliary members the usual business was dispensed with . . . Secretary Rice was delighted that this time only eleven members failed to keep their promise to attend . . . Dr. Baker reported of the success of the recent Health Forums. (see page 3) . . .

Chief entertainment was furnished by the fabulous hypnotist Mr. G. Edmund Wallace of Westfield, with an assist from several members of the audience. . . . The women, as usual, carried off the honors with top credit going to Mrs. Parent who proved to be the most susceptible subject. . . .

(For further Highlights see "Distaff Doings")

DISTAFF DOINGS

On December 12 Auxiliary members were guests of the District Society at a joint dinner meeting at the Sheraton-Kimball Hotel, Springfield.

A demonstration by a hypnotist, Mr. G. Edmond Wallace of Westfield following the dinner and business meeting proved both entertaining and enlightening. Mr. Wallace asked for volunteers which included Drs. Roger Cheney, Field Leonard, Milton Kibbe and the Mrs. George Sotirion, Milton Kibbe, Daniel Wheeler, Leslie Parent and Bruce Alicandri.

Dr. Cheney did not seem susceptible to hypnotic suggestion, but Drs. Leonard and Kibbe were successfully hypnotized. Mr. Wallace had his subjects convinced that a lemon was an orange and that you could play a musical instrument even in its absence. Mr. Wallace believes that hypnosis has a place in medicine, especially in preoperative and postoperative care.

Mrs. Roger Cheney, President of the State Auxiliary, Mrs. George Ross, President of the District Auxiliary, and Mrs. William Devlin, President-elect were very pleased with the beautiful camellias which were presented to them by the District Society. It was a pleasant and interesting evening enjoyed by everyone.

The annual "White Cap Ball", held on Saturday, November 3, at the Roger Smith Hotel in Holyoke, for the purpose of raising funds for nurses' scholarships in this district, was very successful. Besides being an enjoyable social event with an excellent orchestra, a delicious dinner was served in the decorated ballroom. Financially, about thirteen hundred and seventy-five dollars were added to the nurses' scholarship fund.

About one hundred fifty couples attended and more than forty sent in donations making this affair the success it was.

* * * *

The Auxiliary was represented at the Health Forum, Tuesday, December 11, by Mrs. George Ross of Holyoke, President, who both welcomed and thanked the people for attending.

Mrs. Adolph Franz, Jr., Chairman of Public Relations, did a splendid job assisted by her committee, by placing posters in every doctor's office and every hospital in the Hampden District promoting interest in The Health Forums. The forums have been well attended—over a thousand at each meeting.

* * * *

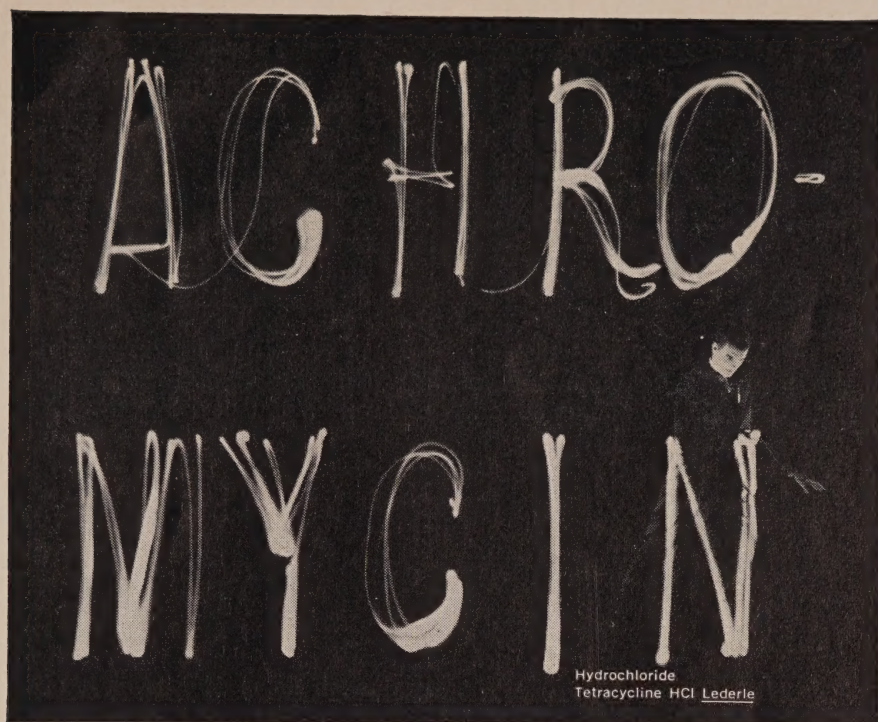
The annual Christmas membership tea was held at Mrs. Edward Haltons, Holyoke, on December 13. Twelve members of the auxiliary joined voices to sing carols under the direction of Mrs. Walter W. Williams, accompanied by piano and violin.

Our present membership is 312, which we are proud to say is the largest auxiliary membership in the State. However, there are almost 500 members in the Hampden District Medical Society, so our membership can still grow.

* * * *

Mrs. Lester Suzor, chairman of Today's Health and her committee will distribute posters in stores and other places of business to bring this magazine to the attention of the public. At the same time subscriptions will be made available. The Auxiliary, remember, gets credit for every subscription it obtains.

Mrs. Leslie Parent,
Chairman, Publicity



Liquid Pediatric Drops

aqueous suspension

stabilized, soluble, no oil to block absorption, no oily taste or repeat, remarkably free of side effects

ready-to-use, no refrigeration

freely miscible in water, milk, formula, or drop directly on tongue

handy, plastic dropper bottle

accurate dosage is easy, one drop per pound body weight per day

Supplied: 10 cc. plastic dropper-type bottle (cherry-flavor), 100 mg./cc. (approx. 5 mg. per drop)

ACHROMYCIN* Tetracycline ranks among the foremost in its field today ...judged on its exceptional effectiveness against a wide range of pathogens, prompt control of infections commonly seen in medical practice, low incidence of side reactions. These outstanding features have been repeatedly confirmed by physicians everywhere during more than three years of clinical usage.

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ACHROMYCIN...ACKNOWLEDGED FOR COMPETENCE

DEPENDENTS' MEDICAL CARE AND ITS COVERAGE THROUGH BLUE SHIELD

(Editor's note: The last issue of the Hippocrat carried excerpts from a letter of the A.M.A. describing the new Dependents' Medical Care Act. Below is a concise summary of this Act as well as of the rather voluminous circular distributed recently by Blue Shield to the profession.)

The purpose of the Dependents' Medical Care Act, which became law on December 7th, 1956, is to create and maintain high morale throughout the uniformed services by providing an improved and uniform program of medical care for members of the uniformed services and their dependents.

The services provided under the law will be furnished by participating physicians without cost to the dependent. The participating physician will receive the amount established in the local Schedule of Allowances, or his usual fee., *which-ever is less!*

"Dependents" is designated to mean spouses (wives and dependent husbands), legitimate children (including legally adopted child or stepchild) who have not passed their twenty-first birthday, or if over twenty-one, are incapable of self support because of physical or mental incapacity which existed prior to their becoming twenty-one. In addition, it includes dependents enrolled in a full-time course of study in an institution of higher learning as approved by the Secretary of Defense or of Health, Education, and Welfare if the dependent has not passed his twenty-third birthday!

The Uniformed Services benefiting from this new law include: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service (Commissioned Corps), and Coast and Geodetic Survey (Commissioned Corps).

It is interesting to note that in Massachusetts, the government program will be administered by the Mass. Medical Society through the existing facilities of Mass.

new... a more potent, longer-acting progestational agent

DELALUTIN

SQUIBB 17-ALPHA-HYDROXYPROGESTERONE-CAPROATE

a single injection provides sustained
progestational activity for approximately 2 weeks,
when enough estrogen is present,
simulating endogenous progesterone production.

Vials of 2 and 10 cc. Each cc.
provides 125 mg. of 17-alpha-
hydroxyprogesterone-caproate

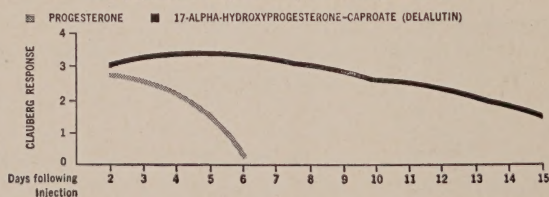
SQUIBB



Squibb Quality—the Priceless Ingredient

*DELALUTIN® IS A SQUIBB TRADEMARK.

Comparative effect of single subcutaneous injection of Delalutin and progesterone on the progestational changes (Clauberg Test) in the rabbit uterus



Blue Shield. However, "it is the U. S. Government which makes the final determination of which benefits are to be included or excluded, and what professional fees should be paid".

The eligibility of a dependent will be furnished to the physician through Dependents Authorization for Medical Care Cards.

The cards will be issued for two years and renewed as needed.

Covered Services include:

1. In Hospital Professional Services
 - a. Physicians and Surgeons Fees
 - b. Consultation
 - c. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures
 - d. Pre and Post Operative Care
2. Obstetrical and Maternity Services and Infant Care
 - a. Pre-Natal, Delivery and Post Natal Care
 - b. Laboratory, X-Ray, Pathology, etc. Tests

(Patient shall pay first \$15.00 charges in connection with delivery)

c. Consultants Fee

d. Infant Care

1.) In hospital

2.) Two visits in first 60 days following delivery

3. Out-Patient Services

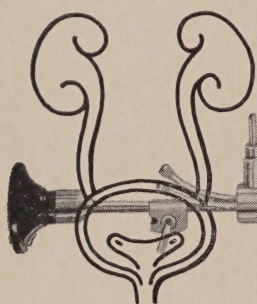
a. Bodily Injuries (fractures, lacerations, etc.)

(Patient responsible for first \$15.00 of combined hospital and physician's charges — "the physician should seek payment of the first \$15.00 of charges from the patient unless the patient has previously made a payment to a hospital." In that event, the physician should indicate in Block #22 of his report the amount paid by the patient and the name of the hospital to which it is paid.")

b. Diagnostic Tests and Procedures

(Continued on page 19)

IN URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS... BEFORE AND AFTER INSTRUMENTATION



UROSULFIN[®]

BRAND OF PHENAZOTHIADIAZOLE



NEPERA CHEMICAL CO., INC.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

Nepera Park, Yonkers 2, N. Y.

UROSULFIN effectively controls urinary pathogens. UROSULFIN quickly relieved *frequency, burning, urgency* and *nocturia* in nearly every one of 357 cases of instrumentation.*

Each tablet contains:

sulfamethylthiadiazole 250 mg.
2,6-diamino-3-phenylazopyridine HCl 50 mg.

Dosage: 2 tablets four times daily, before meals and at bedtime.

Supplied: Bottles of 50 and 500 tablets.

*Carroll, G., et al.: Paper read at Southern Medical Association Meeting in Washington, D. C., on Nov. 14, 1956.

when you want broad spectrum antibiotic therapy with added safety for the many common respiratory, gastrointestinal and urinary tract infections... the product to prescribe is

MYSTECLIN

Squibb Tetracycline - Nystatin

the ONLY broad spectrum antibiotic preparation with added protection against monilial super-infection

when you want specific antibiotic therapy for infections caused by *Candida albicans* (monilia)... the product to prescribe is

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the ONLY effective and safe antifungal antibiotic available

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SNAFU

As we all know the 84th Congress recently passed a law to commission osteopaths as doctors in all the military services. The requirements are that the applicants must first of all be graduates of a college of osteopathy in one of the states, territories or District of Columbia. Secondly they must possess such qualifications as prescribed by the Secretary concerned and by the surgeon General of the Army, Navy or Air Force. Thirdly, he shall have completed a minimum of three years of college preparatory work, a four-year course with degree of Doctor of Osteopathy in a school approved by the American Osteopathic Association, and a year's internship or resident training approved by the AOA.

We don't know how much effort was expended by the American Medical Association to prevent the passage of this preposterous law, but that osteopathy is a cult which has no legitimate place in medical practice, and that the colleges of osteopathy are not in any sense equipped to teach medicine according to present-day medical standards has been thoroughly discussed before the legislators promoting this law. In passing this bill Congress shows an entire disregard and indeed crass ignorance of the long fight made by the AMA to root out all inferior schools and to insist upon the highest standards of medical education in the United States. In commissioning doctors of osteopathy who are not graduates of regular medical schools, the doors have been opened, the second class medical care of our men in the armed forces. E.C.D.

Anything on your mind? Share it with the rest of us by dropping a note to "Dear Hippocrat".

Absorbine Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Hippocrat:

I read with interest the report of the Special Study Committee in the Summer Edition of the "Hampden Hippocrat".

However, in the first paragraph of this report, I see that President Derby is given credit for naming this committee, which is entirely in error. This committee and its chairman were appointed by me at the Annual Meeting in April, 1955.

I would like to add, this committee did a very thorough investigation of the problems that confronted it and it has my congratulations and appreciation for a job well done. I sincerely hope its efforts were not in vain and that the Hampden District Society will follow through with the committee's recommendations. Please correct above oversight and oblige.

Laurence A. Putnam, M.D.

Editor's note:

The Hippocrat regrets the error and is happy to correct it.

Our Society apparently does intend to "follow through" with The Special Study Committee, as witness page 4.

* * * *

Did you know that:

"As a fellow of the Society it is your privilege to present any new business in the form of a written motion or resolution, through any councilor who represents your district."

(From the Manual of the Massachusetts Medical Society, page 11.)

Compliments

Albert J. Rypysc

Springfield

COMPLIMENTS

T. P. Sampson

Springfield

NEW MEMBERS

The following named doctors were admitted to membership at the last meeting of the Censors.

Dr. James D. Allan - 48 Court Street, Westfield

Dr. Charles Atamian - 20 Maple Street

Dr. Eugene G. Boss, Jr. - 20 Maple St.

Dr. Louis G. Clarke, Jr. - 80 Sumner Avenue

Dr. Edward J. Davis - 130 Maple St.

Dr. Thomas B. Efford - 337 Appleton St., Holyoke

Dr. Arthur A. Pava - 26 Mulberry St.

Dr. Francis J. Riley - 20 Maple St.

The Hippocrat will publish the "Who's Who" of each new member in the next few issues, in alphabetical order as much as possible.

Born: February 9, 1955, Whittinville, Mass. Office: 20 Maple Street, Springfield, Mass. Medical Degree: Boston University School of Medicine. Internship:

Worcester City Hospital 1948-1949. Residency: Long Island College Hospital — Brooklyn, New York 1949-1951 - Surgery.



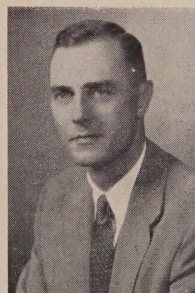
Charles Atamian

Fellowship: Cancer Surgery at Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases-1953-1956. Home Address: 106 Bacon Road, Springfield, Mass.

Specialty: General and Tumor Surgery.

Eugene G. Boss, Jr., 20 Maple Street, Springfield. Medical Degree: Georgetown Medical School, Class of 1949. Interned: Boston City Hospital, Boston, 1949-50. Resident in medicine: Boston City Hospital, 1953-55.

Fellow in Gastroenterology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 1955.



Eugene G. Boss, Jr.

A SALUTE TO THE ACADEMY!

Fifty years ago a small group of dedicated physicians had the wisdom and foresight to establish the Springfield Academy of Medicine. This organization has since then grown enormously, increasing in membership from less than twenty to more than three hundred. On March 13, 1957, a special dinner-meeting will be held at the Sheraton-Kimball Hotel to commemorate the Academy's semi-centennial anniversary.

Since its foundation in March of 1907, the Acedamy has contributed in large measure to the progress and improvement of medicine in our midst. It has held some 500 scientific meetings and these were addressed by an even larger number of eminent guest speakers and lecturers. In addition, it has established and maintained a splendid medical library surpassed in this area, we are told, only by the Boston Medical Library.

Although their functions differ the aims and purposes of our Society and those of the Academy are quite similar: service to the doctor for the ultimate good of the public. The memberships of the two organizations overlap considerably and their interests parrallel and supplement each other. The Hampden District Medical Society supports the Academy as it does all organizations fostering and furthering the progress of medicine.

It is fitting, therefore, that we felicitate warmly the Academy on this its fiftieth birthday. It is also fitting that we salute the men who pioneered this organization as well as those who perpetuated it. May the Academy continue to flourish and to grow, and may it continue to serve our profession, as it has during the past half century, for many years to come.

Compliments

George St. Pierre

Springfield

MEDICAL READER

On the occasion of Dr. Abraham Flexner's 90th birthday it is interesting to re-read what Dr. W. Barry Wood, Jr., Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine had to say about this venerable scholar as far back as April of 1955. In an article entitled "Medical Progress Since 1900" (Therapeutic Notes, Parke Davis and Co.) Dr. Wood begins by asking: "What has been the most important advance of all during this era of unprecedented progress?" He proceeds to answer this provocative question as follows:

"At first thought, one might be tempted to name a specific discovery which has revolutionized modern clinical practice: penicillin, insulin, or perhaps anesthesia. With such a suggestion, however, I would not agree. Rather, I am convinced that the most important medical advance since the turn of the century has been the change in attitude of practicing physicians toward medicine as a science,

a change which clearly began in this country in 1910 with publication of the Flexner Report on "Medical Education in the United States and Canada".

"Results of the Flexner Report in this country were truly remarkable. Backed by the Carnegie Foundation and thus beholden to no one, Dr. Flexner freely disclosed the deplorable state of American medical schools. His devastating criticisms initiated an immediate revolution in medical education. They spelled the doom of the numerous proprietary diploma mills of medicine then prevalent and led to the establishment in their stead of university medical schools. This development, generously supported by the Rockefeller and other large foundations, changed the entire complexion of medical practice, first in the United States and later in other countries as well".

It is gratifying to learn that at 90 Dr. Flexner is still very active and still too busy, we are told, to take time out for a birthday party. M.

recommended dosage

for pernicious anemia
and all treatable anemias

Pronemia

Vitamin B₁₂ • Iron • C • Stomach • Folic Acid • Purified Intrinsic Factor Concentrate

a new and potent oral hematinic • one capsule daily meets the needs of the average patient

Formula contains
all known essential
hemopoietic factors:

Purified Intrinsic Factor Concentrate.....	10 mg.
Vitamin B ₁₂	30 mcg.
Powdered Stomach.....	200 mg.

Ferrous Sulfate	400 mg.
Exsiccated.....	150 mg.
Ascorbic Acid (C).....	4 mg.
Folic Acid.....	

LEDERLE LABORATORIES DIVISION *AMERICAN Cyanamid COMPANY* Pearl River, N. Y.



*REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

HOSPITAL BULLETINS**MONSON STATE HOSPITAL**

Cerebral Palsy Clinic for Epileptics
Feb. 2, 1957 at 9:00 A. M.

SOLDIERS HOME, HOLYOKE

Staff Meeting
Jan. 22, 1957 at 8:00 P. M.

**WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE,
MASSACHUSETTS**

4050th. U.S.A.F. HOSPITAL

Every Wednesday at 12:15

**Hospitalization of Communicable
Diseases in General Hospitals**

The trend of occupancy in the isolation unit of the Springfield Municipal Hospital has been causing of late considerable concern to the Board of Trustees and the Springfield Health Department. During the past five years, the average occupancy rate in the twenty-five bed isolation unit has been at a maximum of twenty-three percent in 1952 to a minimum of four percent during 1956. This trend, insofar as the Municipal Hospital is concerned, is bringing about not only high per patient day costs but also, and more important, greater difficulty in providing stable, high-calibre, comprehensive care to patients admitted to the isolation unit.

The decrease in virulence of some disease-producing organisms, the development of extensive and intensive immunization programs, the improvement in laboratory diagnostic procedures, and the development of new anti-bacterial and anti-viral forms of therapy have made large, separate, specialized isolation units outmoded and undesirable. Physicians should be encouraged to care for communicable diseases at home, whenever possible, and to utilize any and all community resources for home care. Hospitalization should be considered only when special diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, which cannot be carried out at home, are indicated and occasionally when there are some social reasons why the patient cannot be cared for at home.

Rarely, if ever, does hospitalization contribute anything to the control of a communicable disease and prevent it from becoming "epidemic" since not the most infectious person is hospitalized but the most seriously ill patient.

When a patient with a communicable disease is hospitalized, the best possible medical care available should be furnished. This can best be done in a general hospital, where the over-all diagnostic and therapeutic facilities are of a high order because they are being used daily for a wide variety of other types of patients. Consultation by medical specialists is more readily available. When medical and surgical emergencies arise, which may or may not be associated with the original disease, the prompt handling of such emergencies in a general hospital with specialized equipment and staffed by specially trained personnel is a matter of routine.

By hospitalizing cases of communicable diseases in a general hospital, the small amount of clinical material available can be used for the training of a larger group of professional personnel. The techniques of asepsis used in the care of communicable disease patients are logical elaborations of basic antiseptic procedures upon which good medical and surgical care is founded. By sound training of all hospital personnel in the principles and the conscientious pursuit of such procedures, not only can a reduction in unexplained cross-infections in general hospitals be expected, but also, the problem of providing communicable disease care can be greatly simplified. The failure to include adequate preparation in communicable disease in many medical and nursing schools has had the inevitable result that a large portion of physicians and nurses have felt themselves in-

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adequate to care for communicable disease patients. If all physicians and nurses were well prepared, tested for susceptibility, immunized against communicable diseases, whenever possible, well oriented in the field, and had adequate supervision, then much of the fear and needless mystery would disappear and all physicians and nurses would be prepared to cope with communicable diseases when and wherever they appeared.

Actually, all general hospitals handle communicable disease patients whether they admit them as such or not, because patients under care for other reasons not infrequently develop communicable disease to which they have been exposed before or after admission. In addition, every hospital unknowingly admits patients who are contagious, some because they are carriers of respiratory pathogens, others because they have undiagnosed communicable diseases. Because of these contingencies, adequate medical aseptic technic should be practiced on all services of every hospital at all times.

Since the Willard Parker Hospital in New York City has been closed, patients with communicable diseases are accepted on the pediatric services of several general hospitals. Patients with all types of communicable diseases are accepted so that it is not unusual to have a patient with measles in one room and a patient with chickenpox or mumps in one of the adjacent rooms. The same nurses and the same physicians care for all the children. Yet Dr. Morris Greenberg, Public Health Director of the New York City Department of Health, states that there is as little cross infection on these services as there used to be at Willard Parker Hospital, where a separate building was often devoted to a single disease.

For years the New York State Health Department has been urging general hospitals to accept patients with communicable disease. Here, too, the experience has been favorable. In Hartford, Connecticut, the three general hospitals accept all communicable diseases with favorable experiences being reported from there also.

With the above in mind, it can not be too strongly urged that general hospitals in the area seriously review their facilities and practices with an eye to admitting and treating any and all communicable diseases. Such a program would benefit immeasurably those ill with a communicable disease. Moreover, the community would also benefit greatly and be secure in the knowledge that there is a large pool of professional personnel well trained in aseptic techniques and fully capable of handling outbreaks of any size without fear, hysteria, or confusion.

J. C. Ayres

SUPPORT THE "POUND BILL"!

The so-called Pound Bill (S 315) will be introduced shortly on the State Senate floor under the co-sponsorship of the three medical schools of Boston University, Harvard and Tufts. The purpose of this bill is to make animals available for teaching and experimental purposes. It is being opposed by the S.P.C.A. and other antivivisectionist organizations. The Committee on Legislation of the Massachusetts Medical Society urges all members of the District Society as well as of the Auxiliary to contact immediately their State Senators and Representatives and urge them to vote in favor of the Pound Bill.

Dr. Louis E. Hathaway, Jr.
Legislative Councilor and Chairman
Legislative Committee, Hampden District Medical Society

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THE DRUG ACT IS STILL WITH US

The medical profession of Massachusetts has been disturbed for some time now by the so-called New Drug Act (chapter 577 Acts of 1954), which abrogates the right of the physician to dispose or even give away any drug, which according to federal statute cannot be sold without a prescription.

This law was roundly condemned by a vote of the Hampden District Medical Society, and our Legislative Councilor was instructed to recommend amendment or repeal of the bill. Although two changes have since been made (H2855, 1956) they are of such minor nature as to hardly warrant notice. The first change is the addition of a sentence which reads "nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to be in conflict with the provisions of Paragraph 6 of this section". The second change appears in paragraph 4 where the word "harmful" is added before the word "drug".

These amendments hardly make a dent in the original law. It would still seem to be illegal to sell, dispense or give away drugs even in country areas where drug stores are scarce. It is still illegal to leave with the patient a sedative out of your bag. The enforcement of this bill is still in the hands of the Department of Public Health and the Board of Registration in Pharmacy, "who may make such rules and regulations as they deem necessary for the proper enforcement thereof". And finally the penalties for violation are still as harsh as ever. They still read "whoever violates any provision of this act or any rule or regulation authorized here under shall be punished by a fine of not more than 1000 dollars or by correction for not more than one year or both." Thus medicine is no longer in control of the practice of medicine and the conduct of our affairs is in the hands of the Board of Registration in Pharmacy and the Department of Public Health, who may fine us and put us in jail if we indulge in a prerogative which has been ours as physicians for thousands of years.

It is sincerely hoped that our legisla-

tive officers will not relax in their effort to further amend, or better still to repeal, this law which is as detrimental to the practice of medicine as it is to the health of the public.

R. T. Miller

G. P. CORNER

The last meeting of the Springfield Region Chapter, American Academy of General Practice was held on November 30 at the home of Dr. George Vash in Aldenville. It was voted that henceforth meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, at the Municipal Hospital, Springfield. All enjoyed the refreshments supplied by our genial host.

* * *

According to Mr. McElhone of the Springfield Welfare Department the free choice of physicians by A.D.C., General Welfare, and O.A.A. patients, originally slated for January 1, 1957, will not become effective until April 1, 1957.

* * *

Doctor Marcus Fried is at work on a Post-Graduate Course to be offered to all physicians this year by the local Chapter. This will be in keeping with a policy established last year, when an E.K.G. course was given by Dr. Gerald Whipple of the Massachusetts Memorial Hospital. Tentative plans are for a course in Office Laboratory Procedures.

* * *

Dr. Louis Fein has been notified of his appointment to the newly-established Long Term Illness Service at the Springfield Hospital by Dr. Howard Kennedy, chief of Medicine. Formerly a Physician in the O.P.D., Dr. Fein will alternate services with Dr. Mildred Hausmann.

COMPLIMENTS

Ernest A. Byron

SPRINGFIELD

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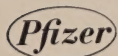


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(Continued from Page 9)

gery or Injury

- c. Diagnostic Tests or Procedures following Hospitalization for Surgery or Injury
- d. Visit Fee for Patients Hospitalized under the care of another physician

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1. Chronic Disease
2. Nervous and Mental Disorders
3. Services Not Related to Inpatient Care
4. Elective Medical and Surgical Treatments
5. Dental Care
6. Ambulance Service
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Two copies of DA Form, 1863 "Statement of Services Provided by Civilian Medical Sources" must be completed by the physician in every case and submitted to Blue Shield for payment.

The schedule of fees is in line with the present Blue Shield Plan "B" authorized fees.

J. Fletcher Wonson

If it's medical and newsworthy the Hippocrat would like to hear about it.

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Meeting February 12, 1957

Joint Meeting with Massachusetts Heart Association, Western Chapter.

William Dressler, M.D., Cardiologist, Maimonides Hospital, Brooklyn and College of Medicine, State University, New York.

A. V. N. Goodyer, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine.

Subject: "The Post Infarction and the Post-Commissurotomy Syndromes"

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MEDICAL READER

So So Picasso

Many of us no doubt would approve wholeheartedly of Kansan City Diener's letter that appeared in the January 1957 number of the 'American Artist' which asserted that "the monthly page of Frederick Taubes is a powerful influence (in defense of the) . . . structure of sensible art values." The latter's current dicta are confirmatory:

"One of the incongruous phenomena", he wrote, "in the obscure field of present-day esthetics is the indiscriminate worship bestowed upon Picasso by amateur and professional intellectuals alike . . . In the eyes of the submissive victims of a high-pressure publicity, this 'eclectic' operator . . . has been blown up to a size to fit Michelangelo's boots . . . all reason and sense for critical appraisal have been drowned . . . and our esthetic elite, destitute of knowledge . . . have not dared to dissent. The neo-Phillistine knows on which side his toast is buttered, and he will . . . eulogize every scrap bearing the illustrious signature of a man who fifty years ago lost his talent, and who whereupon . . . embarked for the rest of his natural life upon a career of flabbergasting with his many-sided impotence the esthetic sclerotics . . . the blubber-jowled princess of commerce, (and) the feeble-minded dowagers who quarry their jelly-fish-like thrills in the plush salons of the art traders."

The present day state of flux in position and conditions of servitude of practitioners of medicine under dictation of full-time planners and of so-called practical politicians who crave primarily self-perpetuation, might well justify editorial treatment characterized by the fundamental honesty and undaunted spirit of Frederick Taubes, to say nothing of his uninhibited use of words of high salt content!

S. Q. Lapius

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Niacinamide	150 mg.
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